THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The expenditure on modernisation programme is to be met by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation from their own resources.

The first phase of the modernisation programme involves setting up of pilot centers in six locations covering all four zones to be made operational in a time span of 24 months.

After stabilisation of six pilot centers the re-designed system is proposed to be replicated all over the country in a phased manner.

Amendments In I.D. and Contract Labour Acts

2054. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact amendments in the Industrial Disputes Act and Contract Labour Act to do away with the requirement to obtain prior Governmental Permission for effecting lay-off in industrial establishment employing 1000 workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the views of labour unions have been obtained on the issue;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (e) Changes in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 are proposed based on the requirements of the social partners and in consonance with economic reforms. Although, it is not always possible to arrive at a consensus among social partners on all such changes nonetheless the process of consultation through social dialogue is encouraged by the Government at various levels. Necessary changes in the I.D. Act, 1947 and Contract Labour Act, 1970 are proposed keeping in view the need to promote industrial investment and generate higher employment opportunities. The changes in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and the Contract Labour Act, 1970 will, therefore, have to be viewed in the context of

bringing about labour flexibility and generating higher employment opportunities.

Rescue of bonded child labourers

2055. SHRI BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 33 bonded child labourers, working for loom holders in Allahabad district, were recently rescued from their clutches; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken against the alleged offenders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Decline in regular and self-employment

2056. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was decline in regular employment and self-employment in the last one or two decades; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to increase the rate of annual employment growth rate in the country which is dwindling every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Estimates of self-employed and regular employed persons as per Labour Force Surveys conducted by